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Sheet 1 of 2

|                               |                  |
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| <b>Confirmation Number</b>    | 1765             |
| <b>Application Number</b>     | 10/725,147       |
| <b>Filing Date</b>            | December 1, 2003 |
| <b>First Named Inventor</b>   | William Howat    |
| <b>Group Art Unit</b>         | 3774             |
| <b>Examiner Name</b>          | Thomas Sweet     |
| <b>Attorney Docket Number</b> | CRD5053USNP      |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Exam<br>Initials | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | U.S. Patent Document |                                      | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>of Cited Document | Date of Publication<br>of Cited Document<br>mm-dd-yyyy | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>where relevant passages or<br>relevant figures appear |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
|                  |                          | Number               | Kind Code <sup>2</sup><br>(if known) |  |  |   |
|                  |                          | 2002/091439          | A                                    | Baker et al.                                       | 07-11-2002   |   |
|                  |                          |                      |                                      |  |  |   |
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Exam<br>Initials | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document |                     |                        | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Date of<br>Publication of<br>Cited Document<br>mm-dd-yyyy | Pages, Columns,<br>Lines, where relevant<br>passages or relevant<br>figures appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|----------------|
|                  |                          | Office <sup>3</sup>     | Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup> |  |   |  |                |
|                  |                          | EP                      | 0 666 006           | A                      | Ethicon, Inc                                       | 08-09-1995  |  |                |
|                  |                          | FR                      | 2 334 488           | A                      | Meadox Medicals Inc                                | 07-08-1977  | Abstract   |                |
|                  |                          | EP                      | 0 955 019           | A                      | Sulzer Vascutek Limited                            | 11-10-1999  |  |                |
|                  |                          |                         |                     |                        |  |   |  |                |
|                  |                          |                         |                     |                        |  |   |  |                |

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

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| Examiner<br>Signature |  | Date<br>Considered |  |
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